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PT 3629  
2-5-04

Practitioner's Docket No.: 892\_015

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Masashi ONOUE

Ser. No.: 09/761,844

Art Unit: 3629

Filed: January 16, 2001

Examiner: Edward R. Cosimano

Confirmation No.: 6241

For: CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, FRANCHISE SYSTEM PROVIDED WITH THE CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, CHARGE CALCULATING METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 20, 2004 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL 994435825 US.

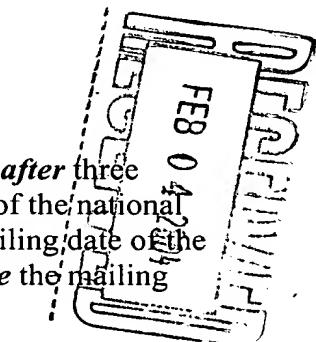
  
Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(c)TIME OF TRANSMITTAL OF ACCOMPANYING  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1. The information disclosure statement transmitted herewith is being filed *after* three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application or after the mailing date of the first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurred last but *before* the mailing date of either:

- (1) a final action under §1.113,  
(2) a notice of allowance under §1.311 or  
(3) an Office Action that closes prosecution.

## STATEMENT OR SUBMISSION FEE

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2. Accompanying this transmittal is

- A.  a statement as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e).

OR

- B. [ ] the submission fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(c). (\$180.00).

Fee due: \$00.00



- 2 -

### METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FEE

3.  Attached is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Charge Account No. 50-1446 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. A duplicate of this request is attached.
4.  If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

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*Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp*  
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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(e)**

Sir:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was *first* cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

OR

No item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp*  
Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

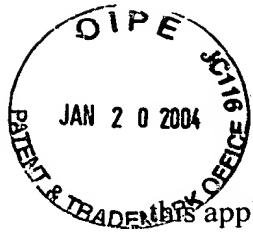
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the reference listed on Form PTO-1449 is attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of a Canadian Office Action bearing a mailing date of October 30, 2003 from a corresponding Canadian patent application, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of

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this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

JAN 20 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  
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INDEXED  
MAILED  
O I P E  
S C

				Complete if Known				
				Application Number	09/761,844			
				Filing Date	January 16, 2001			
				First Named Inventor	Masashi ONOUE			
				Art Unit	3629			
				Examiner Name	Edward R. Cosimano			
				Confirmation No.	6241			
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	892_015			

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Our Docket No.	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	AI	5,657,233	08-12-1997	Cherrington et al.				

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**U.S. COPENDING APPLICATIONS**

Exam. Initial		Application/ Publication Number	Filing/ Publication Date	Inventor Name	Our Docket No.	Class	Sub Class

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	Abstract

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**  
(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages etc.)


Examiner:	Date Considered:
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.